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April 15, 2005  
Joint Policy Committee  
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 8th Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Joint Policy Committee:

The Executive Board of TransitWorks, a collaboration of Bay Area unions that represents transit workers, is writing to support the MTC and Joint Policy Committee's steps toward connecting land use to transit, but we are concerned the proposed policy will not be effective. We urge you to strengthen the policy by adopting the Livable Communities Platform, which will help ensure good land use around transit stations.

We know that MTC is considering a policy that calls for a certain amount of housing and jobs along transit corridors as a measure for growth. While we applaud the focus on housing, TransitWorks is concerned that the proposed policy leaves too much room for the possibility of poorly planned station areas.

We urge you to adopt the following Livable Communities Platform as part of a Regional Transit Oriented Development Policy. Before MTC funds transit expansion projects, cities should have to:

- Plan for a high threshold of housing along corridors, separate from a jobs threshold.
- Promote affordable housing in station areas.
- Create station area plans that include:
  - studies that analyze minimizing the space dedicated to parking,
  - bicycle and pedestrian plans for safe routes to and within station areas,
  - blocks with pedestrian walkways at least every 500 feet in length to ensure walkability, and
  - adequate restroom facilities accessible to transit workers
- Commit to supporting fair working conditions by using union labor to construct and operate resulting transit-oriented developments.

Transit Works is eager to support a policy linking transportation funds to transit-supportive land use. We urge you to create a strong and effective policy by including the policy recommendations above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marina Secchitano".

Marina Secchitano  
Chair, TransitWorks Executive Board